

1 Council, which is a statewide organization that
2 has -- it's broad based and nonpartisan. And
3 part of the reason I became involved in that
4 organization and the reason I'm here tonight is
5 because I believe that it's so fundamental to our
6 democracy to have reliable information on which
7 to make decisions that are important to
8 maintaining our democracy. And as the years go
9 by I have found fewer and fewer sources which I
10 consider to be reliable.

11 So I think you may be asking the wrong
12 question in terms of whether media should be --
13 media rules should be relaxed for more ownership.
14 It should maybe be the other way, especially some
15 of these situations you've been hearing with
16 regard to radio where Clear Channel has so many
17 stations in one market.

18 And I'm kind of sorry that you all
19 don't have a map so that you could see where all
20 these people have been coming from because it's
21 really quite a broad base of people considering
22 only five days to get here. These people

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1 represent really small communities throughout our
2 state. We've got people from other communities
3 and other states, and I think it's very hard for
4 you to understand that without a map in front of
5 you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: And, Mr. Chairman,
8 in your remarks you used the word "rhetoric."
9 Maybe I misunderstood what you meant by that, but
10 I hope that you don't think that what you've been
11 hearing tonight is rhetoric in the term -- the
12 way I think of it.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: You've heard from
15 our governor. You heard from John Carlson, who
16 ran as a Republican for our governorship. You've
17 heard from all these different people who
18 represent so many diverse groups, and they come
19 from so many different areas.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHOOLFIELD: It's not one voice
22 and it's not rhetoric.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sigrid Salo.

4 Sigrid Salo. Vincent Sulino. Biefke Vos.

5 Maggie Abener. David Volk. And I'm going to

6 call out some more names real quick, ten names.

7 David Volk, Jacob Galfno, Maureen Vo,

8 Edie Koch, J. Glenn Evans, Sarah Kavage, Mary

9 Kathryn Roundtree, Rebecca Slivka, Enid Miller

10 Slivka, Deborah Stuteville.

11 David Volk, are you here?

12 Jacob Galfno. Maureen Vo.

13 I'm sorry. What was your name.

14 MR. GALFNO: I'm Jacob Galfno.

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay.

16 MR. GALFNO: It's an honor and a

17 privilege to be here as a part of this democratic

18 process. Not a lot of people in this world can

19 do something like this, and to make a mockery of

20 it is reprehensible. I hope that you take these

21 public comments seriously.

22 Jaded by the homogenized and

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1 sensational nature of mainstream news reporting,
2 I decided to help start a student chapter of the
3 Canadian not-for-profit Journalist for Human
4 Rights at the University of Washington. Now, it
5 is our aim to provide students an alternative to
6 mainstream reporting, a lofty goal.

7 Do you have any idea how difficult it
8 is to deprogram college students who are young
9 enough to be influenceable, but old enough to
10 know better? That it's even a challenge to show
11 that journalism can be humane and engaging is in
12 large part due to the stranglehold that large
13 corporations have on our media system.

14 Please, Commissioners, help make our
15 job easier, listen to the people, support more
16 and local and diverse voices in mainstream media.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Maureen Vo. Edie Koch. J. Glenn Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: I'm a poet, novelist,
22 historian, founder of Poets West, founder of

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1 Activists for a Better World, and a recovering
2 stockbroker and former card carrying Republican.

3 I hope I've grown a little bit since
4 the days my vocabulary was limited to buy, sell,
5 hold.

6 I'm more concerned about the state of
7 free speech and free press in this country than
8 about the future of our economy that in my
9 opinion is floating on a bubble. We have seen
10 what consolidation of our media has brought us.

11 The mass media's complicity with this
12 administration has screened out what they
13 believed to be undesirable news that allowed our
14 country to be manipulated into an illegal war, a
15 quagmire we're finding it difficult to escape.
16 And now they want to consolidate our media even
17 more with less independent local voices. No.
18 Not if our democracy is to survive.

19 Why the fast track? Is it to give the
20 media a birthday present?

21 I want to be proud of you,
22 Commissioner Martin and your peers. When you go

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1 back to the privileged ghetto and stand before
2 the power brokers, I hope you have the courage of
3 Lieutenant Watada and say no more. I won't go.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sarah Kavage.
6 Mary Kathryn Roundtree.

7 MS. ROUNDTREE: Hi. I'm Mary Kathryn
8 Roundtree, I'm the founder of Missoula Community
9 Radio and I'm a member of the Northwest Radio
10 Group founded right here in Seattle.

11 Tonight I'm here to speak for dozens
12 of people from the state the Montana who wanted
13 to speak directly to you, Mr. Commissioner, but
14 because of the last minute announcement, they
15 were not able to get here and they have been
16 denied an important and final opportunity to
17 speak to you.

18 Mr. Commissioners, I drove 500 miles
19 this morning so I could be here in person to tell
20 you that your proposed rule changes to media
21 ownership will shut out an entire future
22 generation of broadcasters. You will leave us

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1 with nothing.

2 Right now within 60 miles of Missoula,
3 Montana there are only 25 licensed entities in
4 the non-commercial FM band, but it's full. Five
5 of these are owned by the University of Montana.
6 All of the remaining 80 percent are owned by
7 religious broadcasters with programming ranging
8 from very conservative to neo-Confederate. None
9 of it is local. None of it serves our community.
10 It ill-represents the strong-willed,
11 individualistic, creative, thinking people living
12 in an isolated region of this country.

13 Furthermore, the Constitution of the
14 State of Montana ratified in the relative modern
15 year of 1972 states that, "No law shall be passed
16 impairing the freedom of speech or expression."
17 "Every person," it says, "shall be free to speak
18 or publish whatever he" -- and I think they also
19 meant she, "will on any subjects."

20 These are our rights, Mr.
21 Commissioners, and you are the ones tasked with
22 giving us access to the airwaves and holding

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1 these rights up.

2 Montana's Constitution was established
3 in order to protect big rivers, big mountains,
4 big sky, and even bigger ideas. It insures us a
5 high quality of life and equal opportunity for
6 all. No where, at no point does it --

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
8 much.

9 MS. ROUNDTREE: -- mention big,
10 corporate, consolidated media.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Rebecca Slivka.
13 Rebecca Slivka. Enid Miller Slivka. Deborah
14 Stuteville. Lisa Horan.

15 MS. STUTEVILLE: Hello.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Excuse me. What
17 is your name?

18 MS. STUTEVILLE: Deborah Stuteville.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Before you begin,
20 can I call out more names?

21 MS. STUTEVILLE: Certainly.

22 AUDIENCE: What number are we on?

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm going to call
2 out now 139, Lisa Horan. Would the following
3 people please come up to the mic if you are
4 here. Lisa Horan, Joan Wiseman, Don Golden,
5 Marshall Parker, Elizabeth Shedd, Camille
6 Kolodziejcki, Rodman Miller, Elise child, Steve
7 Hawley, Darryl Sclater, Brian Cozen, Karen
8 Stocker, John Hebert, Tara Cardinal.

9 Thank you. Please go ahead.

10 MS. STUTEVILLE. Thank you,
11 Commissioners, for holding this meeting and
12 giving me the opportunity to speak to you on this
13 crucial issue.

14 My name is Deborah Stuteville. I'm a
15 small business owner in Seattle. I'm here
16 tonight because I'm concerned that the source and
17 quality of my local news is in jeopardy if the
18 Federal Communication Commission once again chips
19 away at media ownership rules.

20 In 2003 the FCC was asked to relax
21 existing media ownership rules and you did. Now
22 here we are four years later and the corporations

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1 are back again asking you to relax those rules
2 some more. What will they ask for in another
3 four years, and how can you assure me that I will
4 even hear about it?

5 It certainly won't be in the best
6 interest of corporate media to make sure that
7 information is available to me. If you allow
8 corporate media to have their way, what other
9 information will be in our best interest to
10 withhold from me?

11 Media ownership is already in the
12 hands of large corporations. I ask you to send
13 those corporations a strong message that enough
14 is enough. No more mergers, no more
15 consolidations, and no more potentially disguised
16 monopolies.

17 Thank you gentleman.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 Lisa Horan.

21 MS. HORAN: Hello. I'm a student at
22 the Evergreen State College where I focused my

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1 studies on public health. Additionally, I
2 volunteer as a labor support doula. I came here
3 to speak this evening because I am concerned by
4 the marked lack of breastfeeding and positive
5 birth experiences portrayed in the mainstream,
6 especially primetime, media.

7 This is deeply disturbing. And I urge
8 the FCC to consider what role consolidated
9 mainstream media, owned and operated primarily by
10 men, plays in silencing and pathologizing these
11 normal and healthy life experiences.

12 The United States boasts horrific
13 disparities in maternal and child health. This
14 is evidenced when a recent U.N. public health
15 study found the United States to be 41st in
16 maternal mortality. And again, when -- in
17 UNICEF's overview of child well being in rich
18 countries, we hovered second to last.

19 I ask you how consolidated and
20 corporate media impacts these figures.
21 Conversely, how might locally run and operated
22 media that is representative of the entire

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1 community reverse these figures?

2 I urge you to consider the health and
3 well being of our women and children when you do
4 all that is in your power to diversify media
5 licensing as well as to halt and to reverse
6 deregulation and consolidation that has occurred
7 so far.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Joan
10 Wiseman. Joan Wiseman. Dan Golden.

11 MR. GOLDEN: Hello. Thank you for
12 hearing us.

13 According to section 1.51 of the
14 Horizontal Merger Guidelines issued by the United
15 States Department of Justice and the Federal
16 Trade Commission, industries in which the
17 Herfindahl-Hirschman Index exceed 1800 points are
18 considered to be concentrated, and transactions
19 that increase consolidation in concentrated
20 industries, presumptively raise antitrust
21 concerns.

22 In the best case scenario the

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1 Herfindahl-Hirschman Index in an industry in
2 which five corporations control the vast majority
3 of the market could be 2000 points, well in
4 excess of the tolerable concentration outlined by
5 the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade
6 Commission.

7 If either of these bodies were to
8 review the basic broadcast ownership to determine
9 whether any such rules are necessary in the
10 public interest as a result of competition, they
11 would dismiss the possibility of further
12 consolidation as anticompetitive.

13 Now, I'm not trying to educate you
14 about antitrust law. My point is precisely that
15 this standard is not novel. It is the
16 conventional legal axiom, an inexorable
17 foundation by which general welfare can prevail
18 in a capitalist society.

19 If you interpret Rule 202(h) in
20 diametric opposition to the standards of two
21 other federal bodies, you're screaming to
22 Americans that the integrity of our laws can be

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1 suspended at the pleasure on unelected
2 bureaucrats. The onus falls on you to
3 demonstrate an eminent need in the interest of
4 competition to suspend our laws and further
5 consolidate media ownership. If you -- or you
6 are being reckless with public faith in our
7 government.

8 For this reason, even if media
9 consolidation were not harmful to the robustness
10 of civil discourse needed to maintain a healthy
11 democracy, liberalization of ownership rules
12 would still galvanize the cynicism responsible
13 for political disengagement among Americans.

14 If you don't believe this is a crisis
15 of the greatest urgency take notice of the
16 average age in this venue and try and imagine the
17 quality of civil discourse in a democracy
18 maintained only by the people in this room under
19 the age of 30. You have an awesome
20 responsibility to respect the integrity of our
21 laws. Don't screw it up.

22 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 Marshall Parker. Elizabeth Shedd.

4 MS. SHEDD: My name is Elizabeth
5 Shedd. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

6 In 1976-77 I volunteered and worked
7 with High Hopes Media who for 30 years produced
8 the Video Shorts Festival in Seattle.

9 1983-84 I volunteered and worked with
10 KBCS Radio in Bellevue. I hosted a Sunday
11 evening radio program.

12 In the '90s, through the Red Cross
13 training, I received a no code amateur radio
14 license good for ten years.

15 I was taught that the airwaves belong
16 to the people. The elected officials of our
17 state and nation have an obligation to uphold
18 this precedent use of the airwaves for the
19 betterment of all the U.S. communities.

20 I now have the certification as a
21 first responder through my skill trade to work at
22 disaster sites. I volunteer for community events

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1 regularly. I am a strong contributor to my
2 community and its diversity. I believe my
3 passion is directly tied to my past opportunities
4 in community media. I, please, I urge you not to
5 release the consolidation of major corporations.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
9 Camille Kolodziejki. Rodman Miller. Elise
10 Child.

11 MS. CHILD: Hi. I'm Elise Child. The
12 outreach director for S.C.A.N. Community Media,
13 Seattle's only public access channel.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CHILD: Media consolidation means
16 a loss of local diverse voices. Without
17 community media, the organizations, individuals,
18 and groups that are the community would have no
19 access to mass media except as others decide.

20 S.C.A.N. fills that void and helps
21 hundreds of diverse groups and individuals get
22 their message out. The messages created reach

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1 out and into their own communities. One example
2 of many is our immigrant programming. The unique
3 and invaluable information provided to these
4 local communities is not provided on other
5 channels. Where else would these organizations
6 and citizens have an opportunity like this?

7 Local programming on S.C.A.N. is where
8 you can find out about local news in our
9 community. You'll see news about the war you
10 won't see on any other channel. It's where you
11 can find out about organizations in our
12 community, about what people are doing in our
13 community, about local entertainment in our
14 community, about minority and immigrant voices in
15 our community. It is our diverse community
16 represented on our local channel. People are real
17 on our channel. They're like all of us.

18 Seattle only has one public access
19 channel, and it's losing funding. We struggle to
20 put these diverse -- I mean these diverse voices
21 on. I want your actions to strengthen local
22 voices, not weaken them.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

4 Steve Hawley. Darryl Sclater.

5 MR. SCLATER: I'm Darryl Sclater. I'm
6 a circulation department employee at the Seattle
7 Times, and I'm also vice president of the Pacific
8 Northwest Newspaper Guild.

9 I'm here to voice my opposition to the
10 proposed relaxation of media cross-ownership
11 rules, specifically the rules regarding ownership
12 of TV stations and newspapers in single markets.

13 Synergy is a word that gets used a lot
14 whenever the idea of this kind of cross-ownership
15 floated, like by the folks, the corporate reps on
16 the panels here today. They talk about synergy
17 between the news staffs at the TV station and the
18 paper. Synergy makes the proposed new
19 arrangement sound glossy and high tech and
20 futuristic.

21 But, let's not kid ourselves. What
22 the word really means using the same piece of

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1 news gathering work twice. What it really means
2 is cutting down the number of people you have
3 researching and investigating and writing and
4 editing news stories.

5 It's efficient if your idea of
6 efficiency is padding the corporate bottom line.
7 Where it's not efficient is in gathering news and
8 covering stories and serving the community. For
9 that, there's no substitute for the eyes and ears
10 of working journalists.

11 But in addition to being bad public
12 policy, the synergistic hollowing out of the news
13 media is also bad business. It may briefly
14 generate short-term profits, but in the end it
15 will fail.

16 If current circulation trends show us
17 anything in the newspaper business, it is that
18 the future of news media lies in strong local
19 connections. You can't cost cut your way to
20 those connections. You cannot produce a hollowed
21 out bland, generic product, and have it connect
22 with your community.

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1 In the end allowing corporate owners
2 the gratification of short-term cross-ownership
3 profits will only create news media that readers
4 and viewers will ultimately reject and abandon.
5 And that serves absolutely no one at all, not
6 even the corporations.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 Brian Cozen. Brian Cozen. Karen
11 Stocker. John Hebert. I'm sorry. Karen?

12 MS. STOCKER: It's late and others
13 have spoken so eloquently. And I'm thinking
14 about those of our public servants who may have
15 come representing one position. How can you dare
16 to be open to us and listen to us? How can you
17 dare if maybe some other people are counting on
18 you to hold a certain position. I don't know
19 what it's like in politics. So I wrote a song
20 for you.

21 (Singing.) Oh, where are our great
22 leaders, our wise and noble leaders? Have

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1 courage to truly hear us. Days are breaking my
2 soul.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 John Hebert.

6 MR. HEBERT: Hi. My name is John
7 Hebert, and I'm a dad. So I just hope I make a
8 connection with you guys, I really do. I'm also
9 a 20 year veteran of the United States Navy.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. HEBERT: And I was going to say
12 something until I heard one of the panelists say
13 something that sent shivers down my spine. And
14 she was doing it for altruistic -- a message of
15 altruism. She said, "I can flip a switch and
16 shape the market." Did you hear that? And Big
17 Jim got out there and we filled that truck up or
18 we did this great thing.

19 Did you hear what she said? "I can
20 flip a switch and shape the market." It's just
21 -- It's frightening.

22 I've been on 30 countries in five

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1 continents. They flipped the switched and they
2 shaped the market in a lot of those countries.
3 This is big stuff. This is huge, huge stuff.
4 You got a piece of paper on there. The First
5 Amendment.

6 I was at my daughter's assembly today,
7 and they honored us. I was their guest of honor
8 there at the assemby. And they honored us
9 veterans. As I was leaving tonight, she goes,
10 "Are going to go fight for us, Dad, like you did
11 in the Navy?" I said, "Yeah, I am."

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. HEBERT: This is big stuff, all
14 right. Whether you agree, you know, with the
15 quote/unquote rhetoric, recognize the passion
16 here. This is really big stuff. I've said it
17 five times, but it is huge, all right. Flip the
18 switch and shape the market.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Before I announce the next speaker,
22 would the following people come forward: Sharon

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1 Maeda, Taryn Gerhardt, Steve Hunt, Joel Ware, Joy
2 Pocasangre, Ricardo Pacasangre, Kristen Walsh,
3 Edward George, Jerry Bunce, Al Northern, Mary
4 Beth O'Neill, Kenneth Richards, Michael Waters.

5 Tara Cardinal. Sharon Maeda.

6 MS. MAEDA: My name is Sharon Maeda,
7 and in the interest of time I'm not going to give
8 my prepared speech.

9 Chairman Martin, I hope that you have
10 heard the heart and the soul and the guts of what
11 these people have been saying for all these
12 hours. I wasn't here when you made your remarks.
13 I signed up and I had to leave, and then I came
14 back. And I've heard some pretty disparaging
15 things about what you said.

16 I started in broadcasting back when we
17 had aftertaintments. When there was a set aside
18 for minorities to have access to buy distress
19 sale radio stations. I myself had a dream one
20 day that I would own a radio station.

21 I can't believe where we have come.
22 And I'll just end shortly by saying that our very

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1 democracy is at risk.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. MAEDA: You look at the countries
4 where an individual or a small group of
5 individuals control the airwaves and you end up
6 with a country like Zimbabwe or Pakistan.

7 This is the United States of America.
8 Millions of the people have died to protect our
9 democracy, and you have a responsibility to do
10 that, too.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Taryn Gerhardt.

13 MS. GERHARDT: My name is Taryn
14 Gerhardt, and I'm the communications director for
15 the International Federation of Professional and
16 Technical Engineers Local 17 here in Seattle. We
17 represent 8500 public workers who work in the
18 city, county, health districts and the state of
19 Washington. I'm here to register our unequivocal
20 opposition to your proposed rule changes.

21 As a union, we stand for a democracy
22 and a voice for workers in their own wages,

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1 benefits, and working conditions. We value a
2 diversity of voices and know that this diversity
3 is what makes our union work. And it also -- We
4 also knows that it also makes the quality of our
5 workers better.

6 We know that it takes many voices to
7 produce the best possible outcome and the best
8 possible product.

9 Although we have our own internal
10 publication, it's not enough to tell the stories
11 of workers. We need and rely on other avenues,
12 such as local radio, newspapers, and the internet
13 to help us inform, inflame, and inspire workers
14 about issues that affect them, including
15 shrinking retirements and dwindling healthcare
16 benefits. Stories of workplace injustice as well
17 as their victories have a place in mainstream
18 media.

19 As we know, that coverage is becoming
20 less and less. Shrinking the avenues where
21 people get their news also shrinks the mindset
22 and the creativity of the people consuming it.

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